

MISSOURI WOMEN'S COUNCIL

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

The Missouri Women's Council was established in 1985 by the State's 83rd General Assembly to identify and address issues affecting the economic and employment status of Missouri women.

Currently, the Women's Council strives to advance opportunity for women in Missouri economically, and in civic, and family issues.

As part of the Division of Workforce Development in the Department of Economic Development, the Council works closely with other agencies and community based organizations to promote the well-being of women in Missouri.

The bi-partisan Council is comprised of 15 members:

- 11 appointed by the Governor
- 2 Missouri State Senators
- 2 Missouri State Representatives

The Executive Director and two staff members serve the Missouri Women's Council and the women of Missouri.

COUNCIL SERVICES

Resource and Referral Center

The goal of the Resource and Referral Center is to connect customers to information, people, agencies, community-based organizations, and services across Missouri. The Center offers the following types of information without charge to Missouri citizens.

- ?? Referrals to other agencies, community organizations, and educational institutions.
- ?? Studies on pertinent women's issues
- ?? Legislative information
- ?? Fact sheets and statistics on issues affecting women and families

?? Business Information Resource Manual

?? Missouri Woman Newsletter

?? Toll-Free number referral wallet card

?? Continuously updated website:

www.womenscouncil.org

Job Opportunities available on-line.

Friends of the Missouri Women's Council Foundation

This arm of the Missouri Women's Council works to provide funding for important programs that enhance career, family, and civic life for the women of Missouri.

A Board of Directors governs the Foundation, a 501C3 organization. Individuals and organizations may contribute to the Foundation. Gifts go directly to the programs of the Missouri Women's Council.

PROGRAMS

The Missouri Women's Council reviews programs that assist women in gaining the skills they need to become productive members of society and of the workplace.

Each year the Council chooses specific programs to fund and sometimes sponsors them with other organizations. Current programs are:

?? **Workforce Preparation** – Jefferson

Community College, Hillsboro, and Mineral Area College, Park Hills

?? **Workforce Readiness Program** – Rolla, serving eleven counties.

These programs help women out of poverty into paying jobs through skill attainment, mentoring, and image building. Additional programs are continually being brought before the Women's Council for consideration.

OUTREACH

The Missouri Women's Council exhibits at conferences and has speakers available to present such topics as women in management, workforce preparation, developing leadership skills, dressing for the interview and the job, work and family – how to survive and thrive, and a whole range of other topics.

Advocacy is also an important part of the agenda. The council works to be an informed voice on issues concerning women and families.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS SUMMIT

The Missouri Women's Council co-sponsors the Governor's Economic Summit, "Show-Me Women in Business" Conference.

This annual event is directed toward women who work in their own businesses or want to start one, professional women, those working in corporations, and all working women.

Presenters for this conference are women and men who have expertise in such areas as entrepreneurship, management, marketing, human resource management, finance, accounting and e-commerce.

EDUCATION

The Missouri Women's Council works to educate the public on women's issues.

For example, during March, the Council sponsors an educational project for Women's History Month. Orations promoting great women in Missouri's history occurs in the State Capitol Building in Jefferson City. There is also a display of great women of history

THE AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Each year the Missouri Women's Council recognizes an individual or organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of women and their families through the Award of Distinction.

Created by Dawn Christine Horine, this statue represents the challenges women face in striving for balance between work, family, and personal interest. Ms. Horine was a past participant in the

Women's Success Center pilot program in Neosho, Missouri.

ROSE KEMP PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The Rose Kemp Public Service Award is presented annually as of the year 2000. This award is given to a woman who has served in the public arena and helped to advance the status and well-being of women in Missouri.

Information or nomination forms for these awards may be obtained by contacting the Women's Council office.

CONTACT

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